

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE-GIVING WATER

In the daytime he led them by a cloud, and at night by a pillar of fire. He split open the rocks in the wilderness to give them plenty of water, as though gushing from a spring. He made streams pour from the rock, making the waters flow down like a river. Psalm 78:14-16

In the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt under the leadership of Moses, God shows his love and protection as he guided the Israelites by a cloud that moved along ahead of them by day and a pillar of fire by night. He brought them all safely through the waters of the Red Sea. And by a miracle God sent them food to eat and water to drink there in the desert; they drank the water that Christ gave them. He is seen as a mighty Rock of spiritual refreshment. This truth has not changed in our day and time for Jesus remains the Rock of Life—the living water to all who receive him. Jesus changes not; for he is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Jesus affirms this truth in John 6: 35-40 – *I assure you, Moses, didn't give them bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Jesus goes on to say, I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again. Those who believe in me will never thirst. But you haven't believed in me even though you have seen me. However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do what I want. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them to eternal life at the last day. For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life—that I should raise them at the last day.*

In 1 Corinthians 10:6 (NLT) we see the warning against idolatry once again as Paul says, *I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, what happened to our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. God guided all of them by sending a cloud that moved along ahead of them, and he brought them all safely through the waters of the sea on dry ground. As followers of Moses, they were all baptized in the cloud and the sea. And all of them ate the same miraculous food, and all of them drank the same miraculous water. For they all drank from the miraculous rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ. Yet after all this, God was not pleased with most of them and he destroyed them in the wilderness. These events happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did...*

God in his great love for his people provides all the help we need to stay in right fellowship with him and reap the benefits of his love and provisions, but sadly, we often will not listen and turn aside from him in disobedience. We see this in Jeremiah 2:11b-13 (NLT) – *Yet my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols! The heavens are shocked at such a thing and shrink back in horror and dismay, says the Lord. For my people have done two evil things; they have forsaken me—the fountain of living water, and they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!*

The man who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept these thought from God, which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him, because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in and process it properly.

Jesus goes on to say that *if anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Let the thirsty one come—anyone who wants to be; let him come and drink the Water of Life without charge* (Revelation 22:17).

The Bible shows us that Jesus is the mighty Rock of spiritual refreshment. It goes on to portray Jesus as the Fountain of Life-giving Water. Then Jesus comes along in John 7:37-39 (NKJV) and openly promises living water. On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, *if anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.* But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those who believe in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Holy Spirit is a spokesman for God. God speaks to us through the Holy Spirit according to John 16:13-15(NKJV)- *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.* This tells me that the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, to remain with the church until it is complete and presented to the Lord Jesus at His coming. Just as Jesus Christ finished the work He came to do in the flesh, so the Holy Spirit will finish the work He can to do in the church.

So I end with these comforting words of the Lord Jesus that brings assurance throughout your life time (John 14:27-31) - *I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. Do don't be troubled or afraid. Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really love me, you will be very happy for me, because now I can go to the Father, who is greater than I am. I have told you these things before they happen so that you will believe when they do happen. I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the prince of this world approaches. He has no power over me, but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going.*

This is the promise of the Holy Spirit. He will open our eyes to see wonderful things in God's Word.

I ran across this saying as I was going through some old papers of mine and it make me chuckle for it is truth to stand on. I wanted to share it with you dear readers that it might bring a smile and bless you as it did me.

SALVATION: GOD THOUGHT IT, JESUS BOUGHT IT, THE SPIRIT BROUGHT IT,

THE DEVIL FOUGHT, B U T I'VE GOT IT!